

The New Student

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Armistice Day in the Colleges

THERE were purple perorations on the glorious dead and the triumphant cause for which they went to fight. There were rhetorical effusions on the lasting peace with which mankind is blessed. There were oratorical deluges on the readiness of glorious youth to die whenever motherland shall call again. There was blue vitriol, too, for the pacifists. And there were parades of student soldiers.

It was armistice day in the colleges. Thousands of students heard the speeches, commemorating four years of war and nine of peace. With hardly an exception the college editors paid notice to the day, some in patriotic blubbery comparable to the speeches, and others in critical, analytical and crackling fashion. A cross-section of armistice day in the colleges is simply a cross-section of armistice day outside the colleges. There were those who continued to take the last war on faith, and presumably future wars in the same fashion. Others questioned the red, white and blue passages, and said "no 'theirs not to question why, theirs but to do or die' for us." Of course, there were the in-betweeners, who muttered, "Yes, it was a noble war, nicely commemorated in the parade of our student soldiers. Let us be happy that the war was not in vain. We shall go if we are called, but let us have peace."

Few, however, were those editors who emphatically declared "We shall not fight." Equally few were those who instead of vaguely talking of preparations for future wars, observed in their R. O. T. C. units such agencies. In the colleges, as outside, there was evident an uneasiness, a feeling that wars are brewing. The answer was "Something should be done."

The Brown University *Herald*, remembering the part its students had in the war, strikes the keynote for fully half of the college editorials in the words: "The victory was sweet, but the price was appalling. However, if the lofty pur-

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pose for which these men gave their lives is the keynote of international relations today, their sacrifice must not have been in vain."

And likewise it pleased the editor of the *Randolph - Macon Yellow Jacket* to know that alma mater "has her share of sons who gave their services to God and Country," though that glory should inspire the survivors to "do something" to make a lasting peace. So they all honored their

students who "marched on . . . that the world might be safe for the innocent, the women, the children, and liberty might reign." Nor was it in vain, for "there is little bitterness left in the hearts after ten years."

There were other fine phrases: "Now that we are blessed with peace" . . . the world cannot forget what the soldiers did "to preserve the integrity and security of nations." Let historians ponder on the discovery that "the great war was inevitable, it was the death struggle between democracy and autocracy. . . . The great war has been fought and won. Autocracy has been abolished from the world and democracy has been proved solution of the ills of mankind. . . . A new day has been born, an era wherein justice rules supreme."

It is hard to understand why so many of the armistice day speakers should have taken time to rant at the pacifists. Why worry when editorial spokesmen continue to write that "If another crisis arose it is safe to say that the Great American Public would function with the same fierce and self-sacrificing spirit as in 1917," and "If war should come—we would fight—fight to the last man—but war should not come." What else do the American Legion and the security leagues wish?

There is another picture, less designed to give comfort to the speakers. It is a recognition of "War for Ideals" as bait for soldiers who "like the rest of us, did once believe in those stirring slogans." There were calls for courses in peace, such

as Dr. Oscar Jaszi is teaching at Oberlin. There were cries against the diplomatic gestures called disarmament conferences and demands for real limitation of armaments.

"What can a college man believe?" asked one editor recalling Kirby Page's cries for real peace, and the American Legion chieftain's call for armaments. He asks: "Shall we, as potential fighting timber, recognize that only time intervenes between our present state and the 'next war' . . . or shall we make concerted effort to use our influence in reconciling peoples and nations to the utter uselessness of war? If the latter ideal how can we expect to shout pleas for 'world peace' to other nations when we go on day after day planning and preparing for that future Hell?"

The editors did not all swallow the speeches whole. The North Carolina *Tar Heel*, turning on its guest, the honorable congressman from the third district, asked: "When a man elected and paid to legislate for the commonwealth of North Carolina gushes about the *unselfish* entrance of America into the World war—to make the world safe for democracy—what do you think? . . .

"He eulogized the 'many wounded and bleeding and scarred hearts,' wounded, bled and scarred by our altruistic entrance into the World War. God forbid that this country ever be so foolish as to send to death a single soldier for the sentimental reasons lauded by Mr. Abernathy. . . .

"One genuine truth remains . . . the Honorable Charles Laban Abernathy should speak under a circus tent and not at a university."

They listened, some of these editors, and they looked about their campuses. "We are safe now," says the *Daily Nebraskan*, "No more war!" our elders tell us. . . .

"Yet . . . On a large field, outside, a regiment of boys in khaki marches up and down, up and down. Officers carrying shiny swords bark commands, and platoons of students carrying army rifles obey them. In classrooms, straight shouldered army officers lecture to students, telling them about scouting and patrolling, methods of attack and retreat, and about marching and organizing.

"But there will be no more war!" people insist. . . .

"We are not sure. There is a kind of grim shadow hanging over our youth. And that shadow is war."

The Coe College *Cosmos* adds: "Compulsory military training still reigns in the world, it has found a foothold in the American college and university. Yet one of the points that was used in anti-German propaganda was that compulsory military training was one of the worst points of Kultur . . . Consistent? No, but only the dead are consistent."

In addition, there was a challenge, to youth and to age. From one editor it was: "It is the business of youth today to let the blood-sucking, gold-crazed, perpetuators of this murdering mankind know that we will under no circumstances toler-

ate or support wars cooked up to satiate their lusts for blood and gold."

Emphatic enough was the New York University *News'* declaration against participation in future wars. It quoted the American Legion commander's pronouncement that "the last war has not yet been fought," a statement echoed in a newspaper suggestion that if another war comes "well do we know that . . . our young men would go forth as gallantly as they did before. . . ."

But the college editor answers:

"Well we, for one, hereby declare that we are so dishonorable, so unpatriotic, so cowardly as to deny the allegation. . . . To err once is human; but to fall prey to the same decoys time and again is stupid. No, not unless the enemy were landing on our shores, not unless the fight had been foisted upon us, not unless the war was purely defensive *in fact*, not simply in propaganda, would we march forth, not gallantly, but sadly.

"Tell us, are we alone in this? Will our fellow students, our professors stand by and allow this diatribe to go unchallenged? Remember—this is not Mayor Thompson talking. Will we too agree to be the martyrs—no, dupes—of a future war which also, in turn, will be waged for a far different reason from that which the heads of American Legion, etc. will din into our ears? Will we too allow ourselves to be led by the nose, to be guiled by the infantile blinds that heads of the American Legion rig up? Will we allow these demagogues to stir up international distrust, jingoistic, propaganda, military aggrandizement at our expense, at the expense of the future cannon fodder? It is futile to speak up, you say? Will not a rat fight back when it is cornered? Are we not human beings, the supposed cream of society? Will we allow Mayor Thompsons and American Legion heads to corner the American arena, to rage and fume, unchallenged? Are we alive and young?"

What do all these pronouncements mean? The next war will tell.

A Realistic Interpretation

Sirs: In a recent issue of the *New Student* you had a very interesting article on: The Indiana School of Politics Opens. I wonder if that explains why Indiana is called the Mother of College Presidents.

Yours, etc.,

A Reader, Louisville, Ky.

Student publications may have use of cuts that have appeared in THE NEW STUDENT upon payment of postage and with credit to this magazine.

ERIC H. THOMSEN was president of the Y. M. C. A. at the North Dakota Agricultural College last year.

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Magic in North Dakota

By ERIC H. THOMSEN

This is the second of a series of articles on interesting activities of interesting teachers. The first, on Howard Mumford Jones of the University of North Carolina, appeared in the issue of November 9. Articles on Gutzon Borglum of the University of Texas and Glenn Hughes of the University of Washington will appear later.

"GOOD LORD," said a visiting Harvard dean in North Dakota last winter, "think of Baker being at Yale, and this man doing this splendid thing way out here!"

"This man" was Alfred G. Arvold, founder of The Little Country Theater, and the source of inspiration of a great country life movement in the agricultural Northwest.

Nearly twenty years ago when North Dakota Agricultural College was merely an obscure little land-grant college just across the border line from Minnesota, on the left side of the Red River, Arvold was an instructor in public speaking or something like that. Most people have forgotten how he happened to be there, remembering only everything which he caused to have life.

It all started when a country school teacher wrote him to get her a few copies of plays. He happened to have some finger-worn manuscripts of comedies in which he had taken part many years before in Bowers Hall in the old home town in Wisconsin. One of these plays she successfully staged; somebody from a nearby town was present at the production and it was not long before he, too, sent in an inquiry. Letter after letter followed asking for material for presentation on public programs. From those requests, which necessitated the establishment of a package library system designed to supply material for various kinds of program, the idea of the Little Country Theatre was conceived by Mr. Arvold.

Thirteen years ago there was an old, dingy, dull-grey chapel in the Old Main. Today it is a place of color and of cheer; it has become a country life laboratory where all sorts of programs are tried out—"a Mecca where country folks and city people meet to discuss ways and means to make life in the open country more attractive, more interesting, and more entertaining." In Arvold's own words, "the aim of The Little Country Theatre is to produce such plays and exercises as can be easily staged in a country schoolhouse, the basement of a country church, the sitting room of a farm home, the village or town hall. Its principal function is to use the drama as a force for getting people together and acquainted with each other, in order that they may find out the hidden life forces of nature itself. Instead of making the drama a luxury for the classes, its aim is to make it an instrument for the enlightenment and enjoyment of the masses."

Sir Horace Plunkett once said that the simplest piece of amateur acting or singing done in the village hall by one of the villagers would create more enthusiasm among his friends and neighbors than would the most consummate performance of a professional in a great theater where no one in the audience knew or cared for the performer. Quite so! That probably explains why Arvold's incentive for home talent to throw aside timidity and bashfulness and to set out not only to act other peoples' plays but to write their own, deeply rooted in the history and life-experiences of the local rural community, has been so extraordinarily effective in the development of spontaneous community life. I do not know whether it is easy for a Baker of Yale to turn out dramatic talent with the aid of endowed millions. The question would be irrelevant in Fargo where endowments of any kind are even more unknown than the Harvard Players. But the genius of this man Arvold is that he takes a platform, thirty feet by twenty, and turns it into a stage to which he gradually provides 350 seats, scenic effects, properties, costumes, a library and many more things, out of money received from dime and two-bits entertainments and plays, thereby demonstrating to a multitude of chronically hard-up country hamlets, that they, too, can do this; and stimulating among others, the Bergen Township Farmers Club to stage their shows in the loft of Matt Howell's barn in Pekin.

A lumber shack on the fair grounds is found to have lost its usefulness and is turned over to Arvold who with his magic wand turns it into "A Typical Community Center" which daily demonstrates several forms of community entertainment to an amazed and fascinated audience of rural visitors to the fair.

The days of horses being practically over, one rural church found an old-fashioned wagon shed pretty much of a nuisance and wondered what to do with it. Arvold was invited to take a look and at once saw the shed functioning as a village exhibition with changing demonstrations of preserves, canned vegetables, clothes making and what not.

The same spontaneous, inexhaustible resourcefulness can be traced in the entire development of Arvold's whole project, literally out of nothing, but constantly growing in daily response to local community needs and opportunities.

To the left of the stage a flight of stairs led up to an old attic, a very commonplace, unattractive sort of an average attic. Arvold saw a log cabin, Lincoln pattern, by dressing the inside of the attic in rough-hewn logs, and uses it as the workshop of the theater,—the equivalent of the basement of a community building. A fire place is built in of stones and the college blacksmith—Hale Chis-

holm, another great artist in the field of simple beauty and solid worth—makes the andirons and decorates the mantelpiece in hand-wrought iron letters, "Let us have Faith, that Right makes Might."

Stable lanterns, corn cobs, rustic chairs and tables, a spinning wheel and old crockery make up the furnishings of the old cabin which has been the setting for many convivial gatherings in the late, quiet hours of the night after Drinkwater, Ben Lindsey, Stefansson or some other celebrity has spoken at the college of an evening, and comes up to the log cabin for more intimate fellowship with a few, and a snack of something seasoned with a cup of coffee—"the coffee, Ladies and Gentlemen, has been made tonight by the greatest coffee-maker in the Red River Valley, Axel Strand"—an old, Swedish janitor at the college who fits right into the popular ensemble.

The influence of Arvold and his Little Country Theater has been far-reaching. Practically every part of the state of North Dakota and neighboring states have benefited at one time or another from the festivals, pageants, plays, readings, dialogues, floats, parades, processions, exhibits, costume designs, stages, auditoriums, open air theaters, fair grounds, community buildings, to which they received the inspiration, and often the materials, from Arvold. But to get the full significance of the man and his work, you will have to know him and live with him for a whole. And happy is he who is ever asked in to counsel with him about some new idea or marvelous project, for he will see in full play the personality, the imagination, the boldness of vision that has wrought wonders in liberating the creative ability and full play of personality of others. For this is perhaps Arvold's greatest contribution to the life of the people of the great prairies, that where the constant struggle for bare survival has stunted a man or woman to the point where only the daily grind of petty duties stands out clearly, and everything beautiful and lovely or interesting is relegated to the realm of things visionary and impractical, Arvold knows how to touch the springs of life that makes of many a human desert a garden.

When E. C. Lindeman once said apropos of conditions in Denmark that "the fairest fruits of the Danish co-operative systems are to be found, not in the accumulated wealth but rather in the social and spiritual content of rural community life,"—he was merely stating a truth which is too often put in the shade in this country. The political effect of "a higher price on wheat" has been so great that few have stopped to discover that the sociological needs of the farmer are far greater than his economic needs. It is to Arvold's everlasting credit that he saw this very early and invested his life in this field where economic returns have been only the very scantiest, but where thirteen years of steady creative work has silenced the scepticism of even the most timid to whom every new idea seems not only discomfiting but wrong. Arvold is one of those rare people who

have successfully resisted frequent offers of more money elsewhere and has given himself wholeheartedly to the ideal which he has seen and has followed for so many years.

One may hear the statement that all the "bolshheviks" come out of Arvold's department. From being a serious reflection, it has now become a tribute to the man who so managed to attract the most brilliant minds in any student generation. As one comes in contact with some of the men between here and China who have graduated under Arvold, one recognizes the rare fortune of any student body anywhere who in the midst of much traditional pedagogical hokum comes up against the influence of one great personality, a great teacher, great because a free spirit who understands the world in which he lives and grows with it, ever sensitive to human values and human needs.

Loon River Anthology

Football's the Thing

"This team has got the fight in them. They are not whipped—not by a jugful! Let's get some spirit started at old A. and M. Where is the bunch that has the intestinal courage to stick by this team? If you don't have it you aren't worth anything. If you are worth the powder to blow you up you will be out on that field Saturday yelling your heads off. I know this is undignified language from the president of the college, but let's wake up and get behind that team with eight thousand people on the grounds Saturday, and give this Marquette bunch the hottest reception they ever got in their life."—Bradford Knapp, president Oklahoma A. and M. College.

"Remember that the Aggie rooters left their section after the game actually crying from the true college spirit displayed by you last Saturday."—Paul Elmquist, yell king, in exhortation to rooters of University of Southern California.

Biblical Interpretation

"The good soldier must have pride. You cannot make soldiers out of slaves. Moses of biblical fame tried this and in forty years' time marched the Children of Israel only 240 miles, or six miles a year. His subjects had been slaves for generations and had become dull, inactive stupid things. When the promised land was at last in sight, only three men were in the original party that forty years before had crossed the Red Sea."—Major-General Harry A. Smith, commandant Seventh Corps Area, in address to University of Missouri R. O. T. C.

Just Great!

What do you think of the American college boys and girls?

"They're just great."—Gertrude Ederle to reporter for the *Ohio State Lantern*.

OUR · OWN · OPINION

Those Red Hot Patriots

WHENEVER some loyal citizen announces to the world that he, a red-hot patriot, has uncovered a communist plot it is high time he and not the suspected ones be turned over to a competent psychiatrist and the district attorney for immediate and thorough examination. Into such ill repute has the word patriot been brought that when one hears a man loudly proclaiming his patriotism one feels inclined to turn him over to the nearest policeman.

There is William J. Burns, who in his official position as chief of the United States secret service department under the immortal Harry Daugherty (another red-hot patriot), regularly discovered soviet plots which turned out to be duds. It seems that Burns was so busy discovering these plots, or inventing them, that he never got wind of the greatest anti-government plot of the century, the Teapot Dome affair. And now Billy finds himself hopelessly tangled in a jury tampering plot in connection with the Sinclair trial. To our mind this is a far more serious attempt to undermine our government than anything that has yet been accomplished by the communists who compose less than one fiftieth of one per cent of the population and whose absurd tactics will never win them a foothold in the American labor movement.

William Randolph Hearst has also gone into the business of discovering communist plots. He discovers through stolen documents that President Calles of Mexico is secretly trying to convert the countries between the Rio Grande and the Panama Canal into western branches of that scheming business concern with headquarters at Moscow. Some official close to President Calles sold the documents to Mr. Hearst. We do not happen to know how much Mr. Hearst paid for his startling letters but are certain they were a bargain at any price. The *New York Telegram* pointed out how the first photographic reproduction changed dates between editions. In an early Monday morning edition the date in a lower corner of the letter is JUL 2 1921. In the next edition the date is JUL 2 1926. Surely a letter that ages so rapidly between editions is a find for any newspaper.

It is too early to say whether all the letters are forged. But it should be remembered that during the past winter letters later discovered to be forged were partly responsible for the seriously strained relations between our country and Mexico. Half of the Hearst letters if authentic prove nothing more against the Mexican government than that it supported

the liberal faction in Nicaragua, just as we supported the conservatives. That was generally known before Mr. Hearst discovered it. The other letters, which seek to show that Calles spent money for communistic propaganda, are palpably unbelievable. The C. R. O. M., Mexico's dominant labor federation, is the organization that put Calles in the presidential chair, along with the army, and it loves the communists as the American Federation of Labor officials and as William J. Burns love them. The news story which accompanies the Hearst documents is a vicious blend of truths, half truths and untruths.

If one would search for the real reason for Mr. Hearst's communist plots the investigation would undoubtedly lead to the Hearst real estate investments in Mexico estimated to be worth two millions of dollars, in 1923. The Hearst papers clamored for intervention long before the present "communistic" government of Mexico, which, it happens, is a curious mixture of mild socialism and progressive capitalism with most of the emphasis gradually coming to be laid on the latter tendency.

Calling the roll of the red-hot patriots of the past decade we next mention Mr. Harry M. Haldeman, president of the Better America Federation of California. He is a warm sponsor of such one hundred per cent American laws as the California criminal syndicalism law and a foe of such utterly un-American devices as state ownership of water power. Mr. Haldeman has been indicted recently for some financial dealings in which he was charged with usury. Mr. Nathan Miller who was once governor of New York and a staunch defender

of the anti-radical Lusk Laws, is the man who advised Mr. Blackmer to disregard a government subpoena and flee to foreign lands. It happens that Mr. Blackmer knows more than anyone else about the inside affairs of the Continental Trading Company, which in the words of the Supreme Court "was created for some illegitimate purpose" in connection with the Teapot Dome oil steal. Mr. Fred Marvin, another red-hot patriot was mentioned editorially several weeks ago for his heroic defense of Doheny and Fall.

There is a nobility in honest patriotism but from patriotism of this sort may we ever be protected!

PRESIDENT HENRY TROTTER has barred Kirby Page from the University of West Virginia buildings at the behest of military organizations. In taking this action President Trotter bowed down before the military opposition to Mr. Page which expressed itself in letters to the college paper, of which the following is typical: "If we allow a certain speaker to appear before our student body . . . it will tickle the spines of all those along the great trail of the communistic ranks clear to the spawning place of the destructive doctrines of Moscow."

We hesitate to credit President Trotter with believing that Mr. Page, a prominent pacifist, is advance agent of Moscow. President Trotter is a member of Phi Beta Kappa and on that tenuous evidence we hazard the guess that he knows Gandhi and Lenin were at opposite poles. The student who wrote the letter may be explained on the ground of ignorance, but the president cannot. It is true Mr. Page advocates recognition of Russia, but so does Ivy Lee, publicity man for Standard Oil. We are charitable and prefer to believe that the president like the rest of us does not care to lose his job and fears the power of the campus military organizations, the D. A. R. and other local red-hot patriots.

Let President Trotter and the alarmed but misguided letter writer lift their eyes from the college campus and see what manner of men these red-hot patriots with whom they identify themselves are proving themselves to be. They will see that ever since the war there has been a tendency to suppress all deviations from orthodox thought in the name of patriotism and that a group of scoundrels made patriotism a smoke screen for questionable activities of every sort. They will see that men greet their cry of "wolf" with hearty laughter instead of with trembling as they once did. Also that sensible college presidents

Sonnet

Suddenly she was a different one,
That frowzy person who had left the
peas
Unshelled upon her chair beneath the
trees,
With baking and the housework scarce
begun,
And Sunday's heavy marketing not
done;
Who took the first old sweater she
could seize
And dashed away to find the morning
breeze
And up the hill to touch September
sun.

For just a moment she was someone
free—
I hardly knew her, neighbor of nine
years—
She laughed and shook the birch ex-
ultantly,
She laughed, while in her laughter
there were tears.
Just then she saw me standing on the
hill,
And asked if Bobby had the measles
still.

Margaret V. Smith,
in the *Smith College Monthly*

(Continued on page 8)

INTERCOLLEGIATE • WORLD

'Insolent Interference'

BY AN unnamed newspaper critic, the Yale Liberal Club, for its part in the New Haven neckwear strike (reported in *The New Student* for Nov. 6), has been accused of "staging a demonstration and distributing radical and misleading literature before the shop of Stern and Merritt of New Haven. This demonstration was made without any knowledge as to the excellent conditions and good industrial relations existing in the plant. . . ."

The Liberal Club, meeting to answer its critics, issued a statement denying that its pamphlets dealt with conditions in the plant but rather with "the dangers of homework—with its resultant sweating, so deleterious to community welfare."

Replying to the newspaper's remark that "This insolent interference by social workers and sentimentalists seems unbelievable in enlightened Connecticut" and "We question the value of this training for our future clergymen and lawyers," the club declared its policy, as follows:

"It is the opinion of the Liberal Club that the vital question involved is the right of college students to inquire at will into any situation of public interest without let or hindrance. The so called 'insolent interference' of Yale students is only the result of a desire to study labor problems in their practical application. Owing to the refusal of the New Haven Register and Journal-Courier to print news of the strike or to accept the strikers' paid advertisements, Yale students have had to investigate conditions for themselves. In view of the Yale Liberal Club's sole aim, i. e. the gaining of an insight into the industry without favor for, or prejudice against either side, the Conference's charge of 'insolent interference' is absolutely baseless. Moreover, the suppression of news by two of the local dailies has made essential this personal contact, whose value is unquestionable in the training, not only of 'our clergymen and lawyers' but of the future leaders of American industry as well. With this end in view, the Yale Liberal Club has undertaken an exhaustive investigation of the local neckwear industry in order that student opinion may be formed on the facts in the case, instead of by misleading 'press clippings' as was the Open Shop Conference of Connecticut."

For Canadian Atmosphere

"IS THERE a universally Canadian atmosphere which can be incorporated into a novel or drama with sufficient accuracy for a casual reader to sit up with delight and say,

'That's Canadian?'" asks the Toronto University *Varsity*. The Canadian editor is weary of the French-Canadian inspiration, so much exploited. "Snowshoes and dog sleds," he says, "are not our only means of travel, nor is the patois of Quebec the only language we hear spoken." Answering his own question, the editor says "no." But a prominent playwright contends that if a novel were written about the University of Toronto, the casual reader would be able, without names or description, to place the locale as southern Ontario. Apparently it now remains for Toronto students to offer the world the lacking distinctive Canadian atmosphere.

Subject to Argument

AMERICAN policy in Latin America continues before students this year as the most-used debate topic. Twenty institutions comprising the Mid-West conference have selected for this year the question: "Resolved, That the United States should cease to protect by armed force capital invested in foreign land except after formal declaration of war." The same general topic, with some modifications, is being used by other conferences. Philippine independence and capital punishment still draw collegiate audiences, although they are giving way to new questions dealing with incompatibility of business practices and morality, and conflict between universities and state legislatures.

Seekers After Honors

HARVARD is finding much happiness in the notable increase in honor students this year. Of the undergraduates, freshmen excluded, 31.7 per cent have been approved for honors standing, a gain of 3.4 per cent over last year. That more students are going out for honors is pleasing to the *Crimson*, which witnesses in each gain another step toward the goal Harvard has set. Although progress has been steady, and the increase has become "an annual chant," the *Crimson* insists on pointing out that it is a good chant, and its significance is no whit minimized by its frequency.

Adventure

TWO STUDENTS of Tulane University will start after Christmas with Frans Blom in command, to explore the jungles of Central America. Tulane University is sponsoring the expedition, which also has the approval of the Explorers Club, which claims Amundsen, Ellsworth and other adventurers. Customs of the natives is the special interest of the Tulane expedition. Adventure and hardships aplenty are expected and prophesied.

W. G. N. vs. Wisconsin

PROBABLY no agency ever may hope to silence the *Chicago Tribune*, but only its tough hide kept the World's Greatest Newspaper from falling before the *Wisconsin Cardinal*. Having decided to its own satisfaction that pacifism "is rampant" on the Wisconsin University campus, the W. G. N. burst forth, just before armistice day, with an editorial attack and a cartoon described by the *Cardinal* as "scurrilous." This was only part of the *Tribune's* program of denouncing the University because of the drive there being made to outlaw the R. O. T. C.

The Wisconsin attitude, student and faculty, was well summarized in President Glenn Frank's comment that "It is a favorite trick of some newspapers to label as radical or pacifist any man or institution not agreeing with their political, economic and social views."

Any opposition to the military is hardly in keeping with the *Tribune's* jingoistic policy, evident in its frequent attempts to drive the United States into invasions of Mexico and Nicaragua.

The *Cardinal*, faculty members, and students paid sufficient tribute to the honest motives and the unquestionable accuracy so long typical of the self-confessed greatest newspaper. The *Tribune* was silenced, but it is too much to hope that it can so remain very long. Next week Wisconsin may expect to learn that the whole state is plotting to secede from the Union and ally itself with Soviet Russia.

In the meantime, the *Cardinal* has not ceased its efforts to drive militarism off the campus. Opposition has arisen, mainly in Hesperia, literary organization, that has taken upon itself to support the cause of the R. O. T. C. Arguments have been lengthy and warm. In order to clear the atmosphere, however, the *Cardinal* is publishing a series of editorials airing all sides, pro and con, of the R. O. T. C. question. When the series is completed, a student referendum will be held to establish accurately undergraduate feeling.

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY has been busy, too, denying that "pacifism is rampant." Concerted opposition to the R. O. T. C. has resulted in the usual flood of letters suggesting "alien influence." Three senior students, the main anti-military agitators, denied that they were a part of any organization, campus or off-campus. Speaking for themselves they asked that the military department prove its worth. Their communication was presented, also, to a meeting of state university heads, convened at Evanston. Whether or no

as a consequence of the student view, the presidents adopted a resolution calling on the secretary of war to appoint a civilian to maintain affairs between the college army corps and the war department. They made no complaint, but merely the point that civilian direction would mean better relations.

A STUDENT group at College of the City of New York welcomed armistice day with a conference on military training, and made plans for that time. The 1925 campaign was continuing a drive against the corps started in 1925 and suspended since memorable for a dismissal and suppression practiced by the president, Sidney Mezes, who dismissed the editor of the campus daily and forbade mention of the dispute in the newspaper. Mezes' successor has done almost as well. He suspended two students who led in the discussion, for "making disrespectful remarks about the faculty, and for insubordination." But President Frederick Robinson wouldn't repeat the disrespectful remarks, so the only source of information was the *Campus*' report of the meeting. That indicated nothing more disrespectful than the suggestion that military training is obnoxious. In later reports, the president made the charge one of offering "misleading statements." Presumably, upon apologizing the expelled students were to be reinstated. As this report is written no apologies have been made, and President Robinson sits triumphant.

Social Service

DARTMOUTH students, to the number of about 150, left their books for a few days, to aid citizens of Hartford, Vt., in rehabilitation of the town, following the recent floods. Dartmouth clubs held fewer loungers, while these loungers donned rubber boots, and rode in box cars to the flooded city, which they helped to clear of debris.

Beloit students are also devoting themselves to social service by teaching reading and writing to the 481 illiterates in the city. Sociology students are doing the work in night classes.

Student Exchange

A RECIPROCAL exchange of students between North and South America will be initiated soon when 300 Princeton students journey to Argentina for a three months' study tour. A return visit of Argentine students to the United States is expected to follow. South America is hoping for an extension of these exchanges, to the end that a more sympathetic attitude may be established between the peoples of the two continents. It has been suggested that the interchange be emphasized for post-graduate work.

The 'Fraternity Evil'

AN INTELLIGENT undergraduate view of college life is suggested by the *Yale Daily News* as a cure for "the fraternity evil," in this case understood as "worship of the great god Prominence." The Yale paper accuses fraternities of forcing aspiring pledges into extra curricular activities, "thereby dimming the appreciation of college as a preparation for life and emphasizing immediate success as the great goal of four years." The system is also charged with stressing superficialities and repressing individuality.

And the solution, says the *News*, lies not with the fraternities as such but with the development of sensible perspective in the individuals who compose the fraternities and the student body.

One-Sided Development

OVER-SPECIALIZATION, both in and out of college, received some severe blows from President Harry A. Garfield, of Williams College, in a talk to New England executive and educational leaders.

"The student who gives all his time to one subject sees nothing of the world around him," said President Garfield. "He is not a scholar except in one thing. Too often he ends as a narrow dried-up pedant."

"The lawyer who concentrates on his subject to the exclusion of everything else, is not a broad-gage lawyer, but one of a small, pettifogging sort."

"In the ministry too often the man who over-specializes is a prig in college and a formalist when he gets out."

"No college, technical or cultural, can do more than give its men two things. First, it can open to the student the door to a technical training. Second, it can give him 'the something more'—I wish I had a better word for it—I might say an approach to a philosophy of life."

Nullification

WEST VIRGINIA has earned a place in the hall of fame with Tennessee and Chicago as a third great defender of American ideals. Only now the complete story of the Kirby Page exclusion incident has filtered through, and in its entirety it reads like an advertisement offering for sale or trade the University of West Virginia. In October it was suggested that Page, editor of the *World Tomorrow* be invited to speak on the Morgantown campus. The Religious Work Council, consisting of the student pastors and Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A. representatives, decided that it would be unwise and unsafe to have Mr. Page at the University. The Y. W. C. A., acting for itself, made arrangements to have the forbidden speaker come anyhow, and he was scheduled for two addresses.

At once the military department got into action. From the Reserve Officers Association they had received materials purporting to prove Kirby Page a dangerous radical, and if not an out and out red, at least a very pink pink. Besides, Page is a conscientious objector. So the R. O. T. C. took it upon itself to legislate for the University. It had no difficulty in enlisting the aid of the D. A. R. and

Moments in the
Lives of
Cambridge Poets
(AS IMAGINED BY
THE GRANTA)

Young Hausman
Goes for a
Sunday Stroll



the American Legion. With such prominent citizenry applying the thumbscrews, President Trotter succumbed, and announced to the Y. W. C. A. that the campus was closed to Mr. Page.

That wasn't the end. A few faculty members wondered out loud if a state university was to be censored by the campus military, and chaperoned by the townspeople. A few students, loathe to place their faith even in a University president, also thought out loud. Two of them invited Mr. Page to come and speak off the campus. He did, before a fairly large and interested crowd.

The next day President Trotter declared himself boldly and frankly. He would bar from the campus any speaker toward whom there existed organized opposition. He was not going to have any fights on his presidential hands. And that ended the case so far as Mr. Trotter is concerned. And that is the end so far as the rest of the University is concerned — unless the few students and faculty members are willing to risk expulsion in order to do a little organized revolting.

Educational Reformists

THESE are busy days for the educational reformers, both those who are instituting reforms and those who are writing critiques for the magazines. University of Michigan has definitely determined to begin, next fall, the plan of conferring two-year diplomas on students deemed incapable of carrying upper division work. Some difficulty is anticipated in the matter of selection, even President Little, foremost exponent of the plan, questioning grades as a suitable and honest criterion. None the less, the plan will be tried.

As the *Daily Princetonian* comments, "With Michigan trying the two-year diploma; with Wisconsin studying separate civilizations as a whole instead of disconnected miscellaneous courses; with Antioch combining manual and mental labor in its curriculum; with Harvard introducing two week 'reading periods' before examinations; with Princeton experimenting with the four course plan and preceptorial system, we are entitled to hope for better things in the line of education in the course of the next few years."

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Staging North Carolina

FOUR plays depicting North Carolina life, one a comedy and three tragedies, written by students and faculty members, and acted by students of the University of North Carolina, are being presented in eleven cities during the present northern tour of the company. The students at Chapel Hill have been unusually successful in dramatizing their environment, and their plays have been meeting with much praise.

VASSAR undergraduates, who have heard, perhaps, of realism, expressionism and constructivism in the theater, but to whom the terms were only words, had excellent opportunity recently to witness the three interpretations. Anton Chekov's "Marriage Proposal" was presented in three successive manners. The program explained that "for each play there exists a suitable emotional envelope: for the drama of realism, semblance of actuality; for the drama of abstract emotions, expressionism; for plays springing from such experiments as that of Soviet Russia, naive and honest constructivism.

"Chekov's play is obviously written to be produced realistically; yet because of his interest in dramatic experimentation, he would, perhaps, be willing to have his drama illustrate different methods of the eternal theater."

Acting and settings are reported to have been excellently done.

International Council

THIRTY-EIGHT nations represented in the Harvard University student body have merged interests in the new International Council, which met for the first time last week. International problems will be discussed by the group, at its monthly meetings. One representative from each country is permitted to sit at the council table and join in the discussion. Other persons are permitted to listen, but not to discuss. As far as possible, the topics for consideration will be limited to those before the League of Nations. The work of the League's Committee on Intellectual Coöperation was the topic for the first session.

(Continued from page 5)

such as Glenn Frank of the University of Wisconsin are calling the bluff. We earnestly beg President Trotter and his frightened students to devote a few hours a week to a seminar on patriotism this winter. Let them use this editorial and the cases cited herein as a beginning point for the investigation. We will be glad to publish their findings in *The New Student*.

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